

Remarks/Arguments

The examiner in an Office Action dated 7 May 2003 finally rejected all of the pending claims 1-5. As such this Office Action and the references cited therein have been carefully considered and this amendment is now presented in an effort to comply with Patent Office requirements and advance prosecution of the application.

The examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 5, under 35 USC 103, as being obvious over the Semeatro planter family Par 5000/6000/7000 Trans disclosed in a Semeadora brochure and further disclosed in web images cited by the examiner in view of Applequist. The information the examiner gathered from the web site is not prior art and should not be considered in making this rejection. A translation of the Semeadora brochure is attached hereto. The Semeadora brochure does not disclose a central seed hopper that is connected to the planting units by flexible tubes. The examiner points to the apparent central hopper. The examiner's attention is directed to the drawings on the technical specifications page of this brochure. Clearly chemical injecting applicator units are located immediately below the central hopper. Therefore it would appear that the central hopper is a chemical hopper and not a seed hopper. As such, no flexible tube extends between the central seed hopper and the auxiliary hopper on the planting units as called for in the claims.

Applequist discloses a seeding machine having left and right wing frame segments and a main frame segment. All three frame segments are provided with planting units. The examiner asserts it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the Semeatro 5000/6000/7000 planter to include the Applequist frame to increase capacity. In its transport configuration the Semeatro 5000/6000/7000 planter is not towed by the forward extending tow bar but by a side tongue. It would be difficult if not impossible to fold the Applequist wing frames about the Semeatro side tongue. As such the Semeatro 5000/6000/7000 planter/Applequist combination is illogical and unworkable without picking and choosing elements as taught by the current patent application.

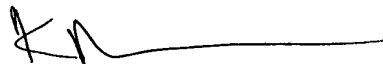
The examiner rejected claims 3 and 4, under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Semeatro planter family Par 5000/6000/7000 Trans disclosed in a Semeadora brochure and further disclosed in web images cited by the examiner in view of

Applequist and further in view of Hornung et al. As discussed above, the information the examiner gathered from the web site is not prior art and should not be considered in making this rejection. Hornung et al discloses a seeding machine 1 having left and right wing frames 10 and 12 that can be pivoted from a working configuration to a transport configuration. Hoppers 48 for holding seed are mounted to the wing frames 10 and 12. Hopper feed tubes 50 extend from the hoppers 48 to the planting units 55. The planting units 55 are secured to the wing frames 10 and 12 by rotating tool bars 86 and parallel linkages 65. The rotating toolbars 86 are rotated by hydraulic cylinders 100 rotating the parallel linkages 65 and pivoting the planting units 55 into and out of working and transport positions. As discussed above the Semeato 5000/6000/7000 planter/Applequist combination is illogical and unworkable and as such cannot be combined with Hornung et al to form the claimed invention.

In conclusion, it is believed that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 7 Oct 03
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